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No Sheep For You: Knit Happy with Cotton, Silk, Linen, Hemp, Bamboo, and Other Delights Amy R. Singer

Loveland, Colo.: In a world where sheep-based knitting is the norm, do you feel left out? Are you knitting for someone who won't wear wool? Lucky you! In recent years the yarn industry has created many wonderful new alternatives to wool, and now there's one ultimate guide to unleashing their secrets: **NO SHEEP FOR YOU: KNIT HAPPY WITH COTTON, SILK, LINEN, HEMP, BAMBOO, AND OTHER DELIGHTS** (Interweave Press, April 2007, \$22.95) by Amy R. Singer, editor of the popular online magazine *Knitty.com*.

Amy Singer knows nonwool fibers and what they can and cannot do. She's allergic to wool and has spent most of her knitting life trying to knit just like everyone else but without the b-a-a-a.

"This one comes from my own itches and sniffles" says Singer. "Not only am I diagnosed allergic to wool, my skin becomes quickly and uncomfortably irritated by any contact with it and 99% of animal fibers. And I know there are a lot of people like me, even if their symptoms are different. There are also people who choose not to use wool, for whatever personal reason. And those that just want to use nonwool fibers for their own merits. This book is for all of us."

Just as in Singer's earlier book, *Big Girl Knits*—a book that was a breath of fresh air for plus-size knitters who were neglected for so long by the industry—**NO SHEEP FOR YOU** offers all sorts of tricks and instruction for designing and making patterns work for a franchised group: the nonwoolies.

In **NO SHEEP FOR YOU**, Singer explores everything there is to know about nonwool yarns, focusing on plant fibers including cotton, linen, hemp, soy, bamboo, Tencel, rayon, the new synthetics and more, plus the most delicious nonwool of all: silk.

Singer explains why each fiber behaves the way it does, how to make it do what you want it to do, and when it's time to try something else instead. An entire chapter is devoted to time-saving tips and instructions and smart ways to control the cost of materials.

"Most knitters think that if they want to substitute a nonwool yarn in a pattern that calls for wool, they only have to match the gauge. *Not even close*," says Singer. There are *three* things they need to match to get a successful yarn substitution: gauge, texture, and weight. Nonwools are different, and in this book I look at how to successfully use them as substitutes."

Other topics Singer covers in **NO SHEEP FOR YOU** include:

- Types of needles to use on nonwool yarns

- Swatching guidelines (why you must wash and dry a swatch before calculating gauge)
- Fair Isle or intarsia without wool? Tips and tricks for making it work
- How to know when cotton won't work in a pattern and move on
- Durability of nonwools: which are easy care and which need special handling
- When to ignore the care label and what you have to do first to prevent disaster
- Finishing tips, including washing, drying, and blocking

This wild world of fibers is accompanied by 22 modern, fresh, original and completely doable patterns for socks, scarves, hats, shawls, sweaters, vests, and bags—all created with fibers that never had four legs. All patterns are designed for a particular nonwool yarn to take advantage of its natural properties; for example, the updated Aran sweater in Rowan Calmer (a cotton/microfiber blend) has great stretch, can retain its shape without sagging, and can show off the intricate cabled detailing.

Each design is complete with step-by-step instructions and full-color photographs of the finished project. Throughout the book Singer uses her cheeky voice to demystify the process of learning to work with these fibers and introduce readers to these one-of-a-kind projects.

Knitters, say no more to baggy sweaters that grow to your knees. No more gaping cables. No more droopy socks! Soon knitters will be taking their skills to the next level with **NO SHEEP FOR YOU**.

NO SHEEP FOR YOU:

KNIT HAPPY WITH COTTON, SILK, LINEN, HEMP, BAMBOO, AND OTHER DELIGHTS Amy R. Singer

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About the author: Amy R. Singer learned to knit at age six and found out she was allergic to wool soon after. In 2002 she launched the online knitting magazine *Knitty.com*. She writes a column for *Interweave Knits* and is the author of *Knit Wit* and coauthor of *Big Girl Knits*. She lives in Toronto, Canada.

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Linda Ligon founded the company in the 1970s when she began publishing *Handwoven* and *Spin-Off* magazines. Since then, the company has grown to employ more than 100 people throughout the country, with corporate headquarters located in Loveland, Colo. For more information on Interweave Press, please visit www.interweave.com or call (970) 669-7672.

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